

Tucson Facts and Recreation

Tucson is located in the Sonoran Desert approximately 100 miles south of Phoenix and 60 miles north of the Mexico border. It is 2,389 feet above sea level. You can expect typical Sonoran Desert climate during your stay. Temperature highs and lows from November to March are usually in the seventies during the day and forties at night. Late spring and summer daytime temperatures can run into the one-hundreds, with fifty to seventy degrees at night. Tucson receives an average of 350 days of sunshine annually.

Arizona is located in the Mountain Standard Time Zone (MST), however, AZ does not adjust to Daylight Savings Time, and therefore, during the months of April through October, AZ time mirrors Pacific Daylight Time.

Tucson is an ideal area for recreational and cultural activities, if the length of your stay allows time for exploration. Tucson has the flavor of a metropolitan area without forgetting the cultural amenities of its pioneer past. The area abounds with art museums, theaters, restaurants, resorts, and shopping areas.

Tucson metropolitan area covers 500 square miles and the valley is surrounded by five mountain ranges:

- Santa Catalinas – rugged range north and northeast
- Rincon – rolling mountains to the east
- Santa Rita – flanking the distant south & southeast
- Tucson Mountains – shorter, jagged mountains to the west
- Tortolita – closing the ring on the northwest side.

Tucson is the home of the Saguaro National Park, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Coronado National Forest. All these areas provide an excellent interpretation of desert life. The Desert Museum features living examples of typical plants and animals.

Did you know that a Saguaro cactus doesn't start to grow its traditional arms until it is seventy-plus years old? You can learn this and more at the Saguaro National Park operated by the National Park Service. The Coronado National Forest is a study in contrasts. A two-hour drive can take you from desert to alpine lands where Mt. Lemmon features skiing in winter (weather permitting). More than thirty campgrounds are located throughout the Forest. Sabino Canyon east of Tucson is a popular spot known for its cool waters.

Other points of interest include Mission San Xavier del Bac south of Tucson; the frontier town of Tombstone where the famous OK Corral gun battle took place; Nogales, Sonora, Mexico for south-of-the-border shopping and sightseeing; and Tucson's many fine shopping areas including the Foothills, Tucson, Park Place, and El Con Malls.

Make sure you bring clothing suited to the time of your visit. You may want to pack athletic clothes, as the wide-open space provides many jogging and hiking areas.

For free visitor information, call or write:
Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau
130 S. Scott Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701
(520) 624-1817
www.visittucson.org/